

of negligence. This is expressly provided in the Hazára Forest Regulation II of 1879. The routes prescribed for access to the grazing portions must be reasonably convenient ; but the cattle-owners cannot complain merely of having to make a circuit, or go round a little, to avoid the closed places⁶.

Lastly, I may remark that the erection of sheds or huts in a forest is generally prohibited ; but the Hazára Regulation contains a reasonable provision that graziers admitted to a forest may temporarily put up such sheds as may be required for the purpose of shelter during the grazing season. The construction of such sheds must not, however, be made an excuse for cutting young trees, or lopping boughs without permission, as fires are often lighted in these sheds, sometimes for the grazier's use, sometimes to produce smoke which keeps flies, &c., from the cattle : precautions will have to be taken that the forest is not burnt.

In Europe, cattle usually leave the forest at night, and I observe that the Bavarian law⁷ expressly prohibits grazing at night, i.e., between sunset and sunrise. This provision cannot be generally adopted in India, at least not in hill forests, but it should certainly in plantations in the plains.

B.—Grass-cutting.

§ 18.—*Its advantages.*

In India this is often regarded as a conveniently allowed substitute when grazing has to be excluded. Cutting grass with a sickle or plucking with the hand may often be allowed when cattle grazing would do harm.

I am not aware of any case in which this practice has been claimed as a right, unless it be in the case of grass used for thatching or for some industrial purpose, such as 'múnj' (*saccharum*) for ropes, or scented grasses taken for making hot-weather door-screens.

Grass-cutting is not entirely free from danger. Though a careful cutter can avoid touching tender seedlings or new coppice

⁶ See Grabner, Austrian forest law, § 10.

⁷ Of 1852, Art. 43.

shoots, he rarely does so. Moreover, in some cases, removal of the grass and herbage uncovers the soil and takes away protection from seedlings.

The removal of thatch grass and other tall and coarse species is always an advantage.

Speaking, however, of ordinary grass-cutting, it should be excluded from portions of forest where seedling growth is expected or has recently begun, and the same in compartments beginning to coppice⁸.

The Saxon law⁹ protects against grass-cutting or plucking—

Simple coppice, till 5th year.

Stored " " 7th "

High forest " 11th "

Eding¹⁰ gives nearly the same periods. The object of giving the stored coppice two years more growth appears to be that the best stems, which are likely to be kept as the "stores" or standards among the coppice, may get a good start.

In Europe, the necessary caution is added that *scythes* are never to be used.

It is convenient to require that the grass be cut on certain days when a forest officer can be present to supervise, if any risk is apprehended.

It is generally not needed to enquire as to the number of cattle for which grass is cut, but, if need be, to fix a number of bundles, head-loads or pony-loads that may be taken.

The remarks made under the last head (grazing) as regards season apply also to this.

⁸ And of course, in all places taken up for reboisement work. Here, the first thing to do is to cover the ground with *something*, and every form of removal of herbage has to be strictly interdicted for a term of years. In dealing with such places, if hardship is caused to villages in the neighbourhood, one of the first steps is to select suitable plots on which to sow hardy and quick-growing fodder plants, or even grass.

⁹ Mandat, 1813, § 31 (Qvenzel, p. 206).

¹⁰ Eding, p. 94, where the author also alludes to some old laws of the 17th century, which fixed an age of 8 years uniformly for all forests.